

and protecting public health. Seattle joins with San Francisco, Milwaukee, Washington, DC and Connecticut in taking a big step to ease some of the burden on working families. I also applaud the work of the many coalitions across the country that are building support for implementing paid sick leave for the forty-four million workers who cannot take the time off they need.

Representative ROSA DELAURO of Connecticut recently sponsored H.R. 1876, The Healthy Families Act, which I support. This piece of legislation requires certain employers to allow workers to earn an hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours they work. The Healthy Families Act provides workers with the flexibility to address their own health needs as well as those of their family members. This Act also keeps public and private health care costs low by enabling workers and their families to seek early and routine medical care. This creates a vital safety net for working parents who shouldn't have to risk a day's wages or losing their jobs when they or their family members get sick. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING SHEKEMA SILVERI,
WINNER OF THE 2011 NATIONAL
MILKEN EDUCATOR OF THE
YEAR AWARD

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor a hard-working and talented educator in my district, Ms. Shekema Silveri.

Ms. Silveri teaches Language Arts at Mount Zion High School in Jonesboro, Georgia, and she received the Milken Educator Award on Friday, October 21, 2011 at a surprise ceremony held at the school. This award is one of the most prestigious national honors an educator can receive. The Milken Educator Award recognizes extraordinary educational talent, models of excellence, and great potential for professional and policy leadership.

Ms. Silveri is an outstanding example of excellence in teaching. She continues to innovate and strives to motivate her students to become visionaries. At a school with a large at-risk student population, Ms. Silveri's students are doing exceptionally well—all of her students passed the Georgia American Literature End of Course Test. She is also a leader outside the classroom, mentoring fellow teachers and leading the implementation of a remediation program for seniors.

Ms. Shekema Silveri is an inspirational role model not only to her students, but also to her fellow teachers. Mr. Speaker, honorable colleagues, I invite you to join me today in recognizing this exemplary educator for all of her achievements. I look forward to hearing news of her future success.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
AND SERVICE OF DANIEL E.
MULLINS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Mullins, upon his retirement from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Santa Rosa County Extension Office. For over 40 years, Daniel Mullins has dedicated his career to educating and serving the Gulf Coast region through his passion for horticultural science.

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Daniel Mullins joined the University of Florida IFAS Extension office in Escambia County in 1970 and became the first horticulture agent in the Florida Panhandle and west of Tallahassee. He established a weekly gardening clinic, local nursery association chapter, published a weekly gardening column in the Pensacola News Journal, and served as part of a team documenting Northwest Florida beach dune plants. He also visited Europe to study cut flower production in Holland and applied those lessons to Florida. After seven years in Escambia County, he returned home to his native Mississippi to open his own landscape business, The Country Gardener.

Returning to Florida in 1989, Mr. Mullins began work with the Santa Rosa County Extension Office as the Commercial Horticulture Agent. Mr. Mullins was responsible for Extension educational programs for specialty crop producers of fruits and vegetables and the horticultural services industry, including nurseries, garden centers, and landscape professionals.

In Santa Rosa County, Mr. Mullins helped establish the Florida Digital Diagnostic System, designed a diagnostic lab that was included in the Santa Rosa County's Extension facility, taught plant grafting to nursery personnel and 4-H youth for more than 15 years and helped establish the Panhandle Butterfly House. He was the first person to identify chestnut blight on Chinquapin in Florida, and established a low-chill apple demonstration orchard to teach the importance of variety selection.

Throughout the course of his career, Mr. Mullins has received over fifty awards and honors, most at the state, Southeast regional, or national levels. Mr. Mullins also wrote over 1,200 newspaper columns, conducted over 3,000 field visits, and served as the National Horticulture Chair for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in 2002, as well as both the Audit Committee Chair and Communications Committee Chair for the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents. As he begins retirement, he leaves behind a remarkable career full of accomplishments and one through which he has touched the lives of thousands in Northwest Florida.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Daniel Mullins on his retirement and thank him for his service to the Gulf Coast. My wife Vicki and I wish him and his wife Vickie, and their three children, Katie, Sarah, and Jackson, all the best.

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EX-
CHANGE AND CONSERVATION
ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1904) to facilitate the efficient extraction of mineral resources in southeast Arizona by authorizing and directing an exchange of Federal and non-Federal land, and for other purposes:

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chair, I rise reluctantly to oppose this legislation that authorizes a land exchange between the federal government and a private company to benefit that company's commercial interests. The bill conveys 2,400 acres of federal lands to Resolution Copper, an Australian mining company, in exchange for 5,300 acres of Resolution Copper's land to the federal government. In principle, I am strongly in favor of the privatization of federal government land and I only wish we would do more of it. This is not the way to privatize federal land, however. Rather than determine the real market value of the land, such as through a public auction process, the legislation names the company to receive the land with the stipulation that a yearly assessment of the land may result in a value adjustment payment to the federal government by that company. This additional fee would be paid to a special fund controlled by the Department of the Interior.

Absent any free market mechanism to determine the real value of the land being conveyed, this looks like a special deal for one company. Even with the best intentions and intelligence on the part of the government, only free market mechanisms can accurately determine value.

Also, doing the math on this bill it will result in the federal government controlling more land than before the bill! So rather than a privatization program it is an anti-privatization program.

I am all for privatization of federal lands, and I am all for private industry profiting from this country's labor and natural resources. However, setting up these public/private partnerships and special deals is not the way to go about it. I sincerely hope that we will rethink this approach in favor of an open and public auction where as many companies may compete as might have an interest, even if we must change existing laws to do so.

IN HONOR OF KELLY O'DONNELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Kelly O'Donnell, a political reporter for NBC, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland and inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Born and raised in Euclid and Cleveland's University Heights neighborhoods, Kelly attended Northwestern University. After graduating in 1987 from Northwestern's School of

Education and Social Policy, Kelly returned to Cleveland and began working with the then CBS affiliate WJW-TV8 as a reporter and part-time anchor. She gained national recognition while covering the Southern Ohio Correctional riots in Lucasville, Ohio in 1993. She eventually won a regional Emmy based on her work of the riots.

Less than a year after the Lucasville prison riots, Kelly was working as an NBC reporter. During the past seventeen years with NBC, Kelly has covered stories including the September 11th attacks, the passing of Pope John Paul II, Queen Elizabeth's 50th Jubilee, the Shuttle *Columbia* disaster, the CIA Leak trial, the Columbine school shooting, John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane crash, the Oklahoma City bombing and trials of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the O.J. Simpson saga and numerous Olympic Games. She has also been embedded with the Third Infantry Division in Fallujah, worked several presidential campaigns, and served as the NBC News' White House Correspondent from May 2005 to December 2007. Today she can be found as a contributor to NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, TODAY, and on MSNBC.

In addition to her local Emmy, Kelly has been nominated for several national Emmy Awards. She was inducted into the Ohio Radio/Television Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2004 and received two first place awards from the Los Angeles Press Club. Kelly was twice part of NBC Nightly News' teams to be awarded the Edward R. Murrow Award, and in 2007 she was named Capitol Hill Correspondent.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating NBC's Kelly O'Donnell as the Press Club of Cleveland inducts her into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 811, I had district work that required my presence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF TOMMIE SPEIGHTS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tommie Speights, upon his retirement from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as District 3 Public Information Director, after 22 years of service to the State of Florida.

Born in Panama City, Florida and raised in Marianna, Mr. Speights worked in a number of

different capacities prior to joining FDOT. A true patriot, he chose to serve his country during the Vietnam era and wore the uniform of the United States Army. Upon being honorably discharged from the Army, he attended Chipola Junior College and Florida A&M University. After completing his studies in Broadcast Journalism, he worked as a television news reporter for CBS affiliate WTVY-TV 4 News in Dothan, Alabama. During his 15 years there, he received several awards, including one from the Associated Press for "Best Investigative Reporting."

In 1989, Mr. Speights began his impressive career with FDOT as Public Information Director for District 3. This district includes 16 counties in Northwest Florida, stretching from Jefferson County in the east to Escambia County in the west. For the last 22 years he has devoted his professional life to helping those in need. Serving others brings him great satisfaction, and co-workers and supervisors alike applaud Mr. Speights for his dependability and unwavering commitment.

My wife Vicki and I wish him; his wife, the former Lillie Kendall of Marianna; their three children, Sheilah, Ron, and Marisa; and four grand-children, Alexis, NyAsia, Amarion, and Kensley all the best.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Speights on his retirement and thank him for his service to Northwest Florida and our great nation.